THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) The issue regarding Constitution of a Common Wakf Board for the States of Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh & Union Territory of Chandigarh is under consideration of the Government in consultation with the State Governments/Union Territory Administration concerned.

(b) A reply was given in the matter in Rajya Sabha on 30.11.98 but it was not an assurance.

(c) While efforts are being made to constitute the Board early, it is difficult to set a time frame for the purpose.

(d) Sub-section (3) of section 99 of the Wakf Act, 1995 provides that on the expiration of the period of supersession, the Government has two options namely either to extend the period of supersession for such further period as it may considered necessary or reconstitute the Board in the manner provided in the said Act. As such the action of the Government to extend the period of supersession from time to time is justified.

Implementation of Dry Laterines (Prohibition) Act, 1993

1175. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Human Rights Commission has constituted a high level committee to go into the implementation of the Dry Laterines (Prohibition) Act, 1993 and the rehabilitation of manual scavengers law; and

(b) if so, the progress made in implementation of the said laws in different States and the rehabilitation of the scavengers those rendered jobless?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) This Act is being implemented by the Ministry of Urban Development and as per information received from them, they are not aware of any such committees constituted by National Human Rights Commission to look into its implementation.

(b) The Central Government issued a Notification through Ministry of Urban Development on 24th January, 1997 and the Employment of Manual Scavengers & Construction of Dry Latrines (Prohibition) Act, 1993 came into force on 26.1.97 in all the Union Territories and in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Goa, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Tripura and West Bengal. The States Assemblies of Orissa, Punjab, Assam, Haryana, Bihar and Gujarat have also adopted the Act. However, this Ministry has a Scheme of Liberation and Rehabilitation of Scavengers vide which a number of scavengers have been trained and rehabilitated as per details given in the annexure. *(See Appendix 188, Annexure No. 32)*

Coaching centres for minorities

1176. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA:
SHRI AMAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number and names of pre-examination coaching centres for minorities which have been functioning for the last three years, State-wise; and

(b) the number of persons given coaching in these centres during that period and the future plan in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) The details are given in the Statement. (See below)

(b) 8010 persons belonging to Minorities have been benefited during the last three years. State Governments/U.T. Administrations are being requested regularly to forward proposals of eligible institutions for extending financial assitance under the Scheme. On receipt of these proposals necessary financial assistance as per guidelines and norms of the Scheme will be released in future also.